

Mr. Chairman

Members of the committee

I am Stan Senechal, (Spell Name) District Manager for SimplexGrinnell

I am here in support of the Apprenticeship Training Program, Workforce services Division, Department of Labor & Industry.


I have utilized this structured training program since July of 2007 to train fire sprinkler pipe fitters and have been extremely satisfied with the results. We have graduated 3 apprentices through the program who are very Proficient and dedicated to their professions. This program combines book work with on the job training that allows the young apprentice to demonstrate his abilities as they progress through the 8000 hours. This allows my company under the watchful eye of the Montana Apprenticeship & Training program to evaluate and guide these young individuals during their training years.

Mark Maki the program supervisor and his team are there from the signing of the contract, the quarterly reviews and the issuing of the final diploma at the end of the 8000 hours. He and his team are also there for me when there are problems with the trainee as a sounding board when I am faced with a decision on an individual's performance. This is important as the team balances the need of the apprentice with my need to make the company successful and always helps me make the best decisions.

My company utilized the apprenticeship program from Penn State Prior to using Montana's program and did not have the same experience as I enjoy with my current program. There were no quarterly checks on trainee's time and curriculum there was no personal concern weather the individual did well. I do not currently employ any of the apprentices that graduated through the Penn State program but I have all 3 that graduated from the Montana program.

I am in the life safety business and it is important that my people are well trained to perform their work flawlessly and to meet all National Fire Protection Association codes and regulations. Without the current apprenticeship training program these highly trained technicians would not be ready to work alone and complete their work for a certified system.

This program has made my work force efficient and profitable. Has provided the best Fitters that I can hire and most of all have made it possible for hard working young individuals the opportunity to have a career that pays very well. Which strengthens my company and the state.


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